

FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECONG REGULAR SESSION, 2004

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-37

SENATE BILL

NO. 14-18, SD2, HD1

AN ACT

To repeal and reenact 3 CMC § 1341 and § 1342 to establish the CNMI Honor Scholarship Program; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "CNMI Honor Scholarship Act
2 of 2004."

3 Section 2. Findings and Purpose.

4 (a) The Legislature finds that Public Law 7-32 known as the "Postsecondary
5 Education Scholarship of 1990" awards scholarships to graduating high school students who
6 are the valedictorian and salutatorian in each graduating class of the Rota and Tinian high
7 schools, in addition to four recipients who have the highest scholastic standing from all high
8 schools in Saipan, and three recipients who had graduated as one of the top students of an
9 off-island high school. It is the intent of this Act to award all such future scholarships to
10 students with the highest overall scholastic achievement on each island. The Legislature
11 also intends to clarify the requirements for the two off-island high school scholarship
12 recipients.

13 (b) The Legislature further finds that Public Law 7-32 does not require applicants to
14 take the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and/or American College Testing (ACT).
15 Therefore, it is the intent of this Act to require applicants to take the SAT and/or ACT prior
16 to applying for the scholarship. The highest overall scholastic achievement is to be
17 determined by combining the student's cumulative Grade Point Average(s) (GPA) from

1 grades 9 to 12 and the student's highest Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and/or
2 American College Testing score. The Scholarship Board shall determine what percentage
3 values to assign to both GPA and SAT and/or ACT score when deciding to whom the
4 scholarships should be awarded.

5 (c) The Legislature further finds that Public Law 7-32 requires recipients of the
6 scholarships to be bonafide residents of the CNMI for a period of at least two years
7 immediately preceding the date of the award. It is the intent of this Act to maintain the two
8 year residency requirement in some instances but further require the recipient to have
9 attended any CNMI school for a total period of six years (including the two years preceding
10 the application).

11 (d) The Legislature further finds that 7-32 does not contain an enforcement clause to
12 hold students who fail to meet the requirements and terms of the scholarship accountable to
13 the obligations under their agreement. It is the intent of this Act to grant the Scholarship
14 Board the power to enforce the terms of the agreement between the recipient and the CNMI
15 government.

16 Section 3. Amendments. 3 CMC § 1341 and 1342 are hereby repealed and
17 reenacted as follows:

18 **"§ 1341. Short Title.**

19 This article may be cited as the "CNMI Honor Scholarship Act of 2004."

20 **§ 1342. Students Eligible for Scholarships: Amount of Scholarships.**

21 (a) There are hereby established annual scholarships for students to attend any
22 accredited two or four-year college or university in the Commonwealth or the United States
23 or its territories to pay for costs directly related to the student's educational needs, including
24 but not limited to tuition, textbooks and school supplies, provided that the amount allocated
25 for each scholarship shall not exceed \$15,000 per annum.

26 (b) The criteria to qualify for the scholarship shall include the following:

- 27 1. Highest grade point average;

- 1 2. Highest SAT and/or ACT score;
- 2 3. Consideration of applicant's extra-curricular activities;
- 3 4. Evaluation of the difficulty of courses taken by the applicant
- 4 during high school; and
- 5 5. Consideration of at least two letters of recommendation.

6 (c) There shall be eight recipients from Saipan, two from Rota, and two from Tinian.
7 To be eligible for the award of a scholarship, the student must be a U.S. citizen or a U.S.
8 national and must have attended school within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
9 Islands for a total of at least six years, which must include the last two years immediately
10 preceding the date of the award. There shall also be scholarships for three students who
11 graduate as one of the top students, scholastically, from a high school in the United States or
12 its territories. Off-island students applying for this scholarship are eligible to apply provided
13 that they have achieved the highest scholastic achievement with cumulative GPA of 4.0 or
14 higher and their parents are bonafide CNMI residents at the time of application and have
15 been so for a period of at least eight years prior to the date of application.

16 (d) Continued eligibility for these scholarships shall depend on maintaining a 3.0
17 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the end of each school year. The Scholarship
18 Board shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing a probationary process for the
19 student to follow in the event that the student fails to meet this requirement.

20 (e) In the event that any student becomes ineligible because of his or her failure to
21 meet any of the stated requirements or he or she refuses the scholarship, the scholarship
22 shall revert to the CNMI government.

23 (f) The Scholarship Board shall have the power to enforce the terms of the
24 agreement between the recipient and the CNMI government in the event that the recipient
25 fails to maintain good academic standing as determined by the Scholarship Board.

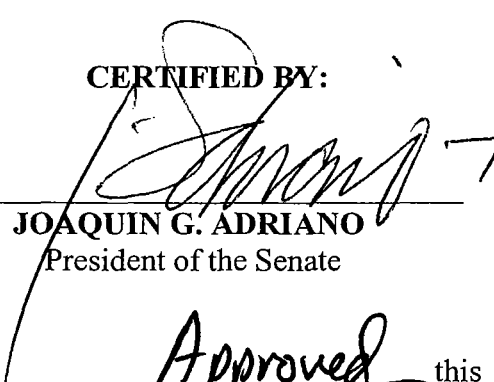
26 Section 4. Authorization. The Legislature shall appropriate funds to carry out the
27 purposes of this Act.

1 Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
2 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
3 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
4 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

5 Section 6. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
6 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
7 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
8 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior
9 law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way
10 modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this
11 Act becomes effective.


12 Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect retroactively to the beginning
13 of school year 2004 upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without
14 such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



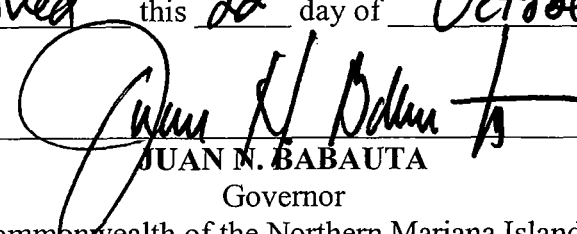
JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO
President of the Senate

ATTESTED BY:



JOSEPH M. MENDIOLA
Senate Legislative Secretary

Approved this 22nd day of October, 2004



JUAN N. BABAUTA
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands